

cedar park pulse

SPECIAL WINTER WEATHER EDITION THURSDAY 2/18/21

Official news about the City of Cedar Park from the City of Cedar Park.

LOOKING FOR WEATHER UPDATES?

Weather conditions and news are rapidly changing
This wintry weather has forced many closures and delays. The best source for timely information is our [City website](#) and [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds. [Check out updates from Mayor Corbin Van Arsdale.](#)

UPDATE: TRASH PICKUP CANNOT RESUME THIS WEEK AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED

**Landfill remains closed, roads projected icy;
Please read below for all information you need to know**

The primary reasons for this change are safety concerns and landfill closure. Our plan now is for everyone to be back on their regular trash-only schedule the week of Monday, February 22.

Our revised plan allows us to service all customers in the safest and most efficient way possible. Given the freezing forecast for tonight/Friday night, and the landfill now closed on Friday and with an unknown status Saturday, our collectors are unable to pick up trash.

Trash trucks weigh more than 10 tons each. We cannot risk a truck sliding and injuring anyone. Icy conditions greatly increase the risk of slips and falls for workers and customers.

Please understand that this current plan is based on ever-changing logistics. It's subject to updates.

Remember: once service resumes, truck passage down alleys and streets with low-hanging branches from the freeze may be difficult. Due to extensive storm damage and debris, roads may prove more difficult to navigate as well.

We understand the trash is piling up. **Picking up trash safely is our top priority.** This is truly an "all hands on deck" situation. All of our collectors – both trash and recycling – are focusing first on clearing trash from roads.



This is the current plan, subject to change:

TRASH

- Everyone is back on their regular trash-only schedule starting next week (week of February 22).
- Trash pickup includes your green cart and seven (7) additional bulk trash items.

RECYCLING

- We regret that we are not able to offer recycling collection until the week of March 1.
- Please do not put out your blue recycling cart on the curb until the regular schedule resumes.
- We are working hard to return to our normal recycling schedule quickly as possible.
- If we are able to stay on this current plan, each household will have missed only one recycling service.
- If you prefer to have your recycling picked up as trash in the meantime, you may bag it and place it next to your trash cart as one of your seven (7) bulk trash items.

TREES/LIMBS

- If you have your downed trees/limbs cut and bundled, those bundles may be placed next to your trash cart on your trash day as part of your seven (7) additional bulk trash items for pickup by CTR.
- For specifics on length, weight and other limb-bundling requirements, [click here](#).
- For additional storm debris pickup, know that the City is working on a plan. Please wait until we announce the plan for pickup before moving trees and limbs to the curb/street. We need time to normalize operations so that we can efficiently and safely clear the storm debris.

BE CAREFUL!

Last, but most important, we want to emphasize your safety. Please wait until ice on the ground is melted before moving any trash to the curb/street. Current icy conditions could result in slips and falls.

We appreciate you all being patient and flexible as we work through this historic weather event together.

Water Bottle Distribution

Friday (2/19): Noon until gone

Recreation Center (1435 Main St.)

- 1 case per car
- Drive thru

Water Filling Station

Friday (2/19): Noon-5 PM

Saturday (2/20) and

Sunday (2/21): 8-5 PM

City Hall Buildings 3 & 4
(450 Cypress Creek Rd.)

- Fill your own container up to 20 gallons
- Limit 20 gallons per family, bring your own container(s)

Wear your mask and please drive safely.

WATER DISTRIBUTION & FILLING CENTERS

Water Bottle Distribution

Friday (2/19):

Noon until gone

1 case per car

Drive thru

Recreation Center
1435 Main St.

Water Filling Station

Friday (2/19): Noon-5

Saturday (2/20) &

Sunday (2/21): 8-5

20 gallons per family

Bring own containers

City Hall Buildings 3 & 4
450 Cypress Creek Rd.

Face masks required. Please drive safely.

Mayor Corbin Van Arsdale has issued a Declaration of Local State of Disaster, activating the appropriate recovery, rehabilitation and aid provisions of the City of Cedar Park's Emergency Management Plan, pursuant to Texas Government Code 418.108(d). It effectively begins the process of facilitating Federal and State reimbursement for expenditures related to the severe weather event. The Declaration is valid for seven (7) days from today, February 18, 2021. It will be an item on

MAYOR ISSUES DECLARATION OF LOCAL DISASTER

the agenda for the next Regular Scheduled City Council Meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2021. More information [here](#).

DRIP YOUR FAUCETS CONTINUOUSLY TONIGHT!

With subfreezing temperatures forecast overnight, it is very important that you drip your faucets continuously to prevent pipes from freezing and breaking. Rest assured the City of Cedar Park is not experiencing a water supply shortage at this time and our water distribution system is functioning normally. There are no plans at this time to shut off water supply to customers. Please heed our advice and drip your faucets overnight and until temperatures rise to 32 degrees or above. [Click here for more info.](#)

If your pipes are frozen or you are experiencing leaks, here is some helpful information

Tips to Thaw a Frozen Water Pipe

- LOCATE THE FROZEN PIPE**
Illustration of a pipe with icicles hanging from it.
- OPEN THE FAUCET**
Illustration of a faucet with water dripping into a sink.
- BEGIN NEAR THE FAUCET**
Illustration of a pipe with an arrow pointing down and the text "Work your way down".
- AVOID USING AN OPEN FLAME**
Illustration of a propane torch with a red 'X' over it, indicating it should not be used.

THAW EXPOSED PIPES WITH

- Hair Dryer
- Hot Towels
- Portable Space Heater
- Heat Lamp
- Electrical Heating Tape

the balance

If you are not able to run water in your home, it is likely due to your home's pipes being frozen. If this happens, pipes can expand and leak when they thaw. To lessen possible damage, you can turn off the water to your home.

We understand that many remedies to thaw frozen pipes require electricity and that many are still without power. If you are a Cedar Park resident and have questions related to your electrical power, please contact your provider, the PEC, at 888-883-3379. If your pipes have frozen/broken and, after watching [this video](#), please call 512-401-5550, 7 a.m.-7 p.m. through Sunday, and staff can answer basic questions. You may also find additional helpful information by [clicking here](#).

Also, a friendly reminder that pipes on private property are the responsibility of the property

owner. We encourage you to call a plumber if you're concerned an issue is more than you can handle. And again, don't forget to let your drip faucets continuously, to help prevent pipes from freezing!



City of Cedar Park facilities closed until conditions improve

The following City facilities remain closed to the public through Friday, February 19:

- Cedar Park City Hall, 450 Cypress Creek Rd.
- Cedar Park Public Library, 550 Discovery Blvd.
- Cedar Park Municipal Court, 911 Quest Pkwy.
- **Milburn Pool** at 1950 Sun Chase Blvd. is closed until further notice for repairs.
- **The Cedar Park Recreation Center**, 1435 Main St., is closed.



Our Public Works crews are continuing to treat roads and bridges, as possible. However, there is still a thick layer of snow and ice on our roadways and some are closed. Please avoid travel if possible while these hazardous road conditions exist, and if you must drive, use extreme caution. Please watch for [Cedar Park Police updates on Twitter](#) and visit drivetexas.org to monitor changing road conditions across the State and region.



CAUTION WHILE AT CITY PARKS & TRAILS DUE TO ICY CONDITIONS

Be careful in our City of Cedar Park Parks
We know many of you want to get outside and enjoy our parks once the weather warms. Currently, our Parks Crews are assisting our Public Works Crews to clear streets of storm debris and other hazards.

This means Parks Crews will not be able to fully begin the process of assessing or clearing damage in our parks at least until the week of February 22, and the damage-clearing will take time.

We encourage those of you who choose to visit our parks over the weekend to be extremely cautious of hazards such as broken tree limbs and uprooted trees – until we have been able to complete process of assessing and clearing hazards debris from our City Parks.

Reminder:

- **Milburn Pool** at 1950 Sun Chase Blvd. is **closed** until further notice for repairs.
- **The Cedar Park Recreation Center**, 1435 Main St., is **closed**, pending storm damage assessment.

Updates will be posted as they become available on our [City website here](#).

Rumor Patrol: Water

We've been on rumor patrol! Here is correct information to some of the misinformation you're seeing around social media:

RUMOR #1

Cedar Park is under a boil water notice.

This is not accurate for Cedar Park water customers. You are not under a boil water notice at this time.

The City of Cedar Park is aware that some Cedar Park water customers might have received a notice from other entities referencing a boil water notice.

RUMOR #2

Cedar Park water customers should stop dripping faucets due to a water shortage.

This is not accurate for Cedar Park water customers.

Cedar Park has no water shortage and our water distribution system is currently functioning normally. At this time, the City has no plans to shut off water. We have subfreezing temperatures after 7 p.m. and overnight. **DRIP YOUR FAUCETS CONTINUOUSLY.**

RUMOR #3

Cedar Park residents could lose water service for days.

This is not accurate for Cedar Park water customers.

The City of Cedar Park public water distribution system is currently functioning normally, with no service interruptions. However, we ask everyone to curtail non-essential usage to help our water treatment plant conserve electricity. **At this time the City has no plan to shut off water.**

EMERGENCY WARMING ASSISTANCE

The City has been working with our partners to provide an emergency warming center to those

most in need, such as the elderly and families with young children.

If you are in need, please call Williamson County's hotline at 512-943-1700.

It is going to be another cold night, especially for those without power, but if you find yourself in an emergency situation please reach out to the number above for more information on warming centers.

EMERGENCY WARMING ASSISTANCE

The City of Cedar Park has been working with our partners to provide an emergency warming center to those most in need, such as the elderly and families with young children. If you are in need, please call Williamson County's hotline at 512-943-1700.



Please save 9-1-1 for true emergencies

It's no secret that our 9-1-1 system has been inundated over the past couple of days. It is critically important that we keep our 9-1-1 lines of communication open for Police, Fire and EMS emergency response. Please reserve calls for 9-1-1 for medical and life-threatening emergencies only. Please refrain from calling 9-1-1 to report things such as power outages and

frozen/broken pipes so we can keep our Dispatch lines open for emergencies. If you are experiencing an outage, please click [here](#) to see the PEC's outage center or call 888-883-3379. If you are experiencing frozen/broken pipes you can call 512-401-5550 7 a.m.-7 p.m. through Sunday for assistance.

Does the City have a plan for picking up downed trees and limbs from the ice storm?

Yes. For now, please do not place fallen limbs/trees at the curb/in street. We'll announce more information about a plan to collect those when this weather event is over. Keep up with these updates [here](#).

If it's on a neighborhood street or sidewalk, please [report it to us here](#). If it's causing a life-threatening hazard in a major roadway or is creating another serious issue – such as pulling down a power line – please call 9-1-1. Please know that our Police and Firefighters have been responding non-stop weather-related accidents and other emergencies, and our Public Works crews have been working around the clock to clear fallen trees across sidewalks and streets throughout Cedar Park.



As the temperatures warm up we understand that you will be eager to clear your property as soon as possible. Please wait until we announce the plan for pickup before moving trees and limbs to the curb. We need time to normalize operations so that we can efficiently and safely clear the storm debris. Click [here](#) for updates and more information.

Please stay inside

As things start to thaw, we must again remind you of the

importance of staying inside your home until our weather and road conditions improve. The non-freezing temperatures today and Friday, combined with below-freezing temperatures overnight tonight and tomorrow overnight, mean what melts today will re-freeze to create another new layer of hard and slippery ice. This makes even walking outdoors especially unsafe. Also, subfreezing temps can cause hypothermia and frostbite. It's best to stay inside and not risk injury.



Please do not drive

We ask again that you please do not drive unless absolutely necessary. Despite multiple de-icing treatments, most of our roads remain unnavigable under current conditions.

Remember: because of the hazardous road conditions, our emergency responders are taking extra safety precautions. This could extend response times and they could experience issues accessing call locations. It's best for us all to stay inside and keep ourselves and our First Responders safe!



School District Updates

Local school district schedules are subject to change. Please use the links below to get the latest updates from LISD and RRISD.



Power outages updates

The PEC says its crews are working quickly and safely as possible to restore power to our area. They have put together a page titled "Why is my power out?" to help answer some of your questions. You can find that information [here](#). Many of you have wondered why your street or neighborhood has lost power and others have not or why the power outage has been longer than 40 minutes. See frequently asked questions for PEC [here](#).

Please do not call 9-1-1 to report electricity outages. If you are experiencing an outage, please [click here](#) to see the PEC's outage center and report outages or call 888-883-3379.



Staying **warm** when the power is out



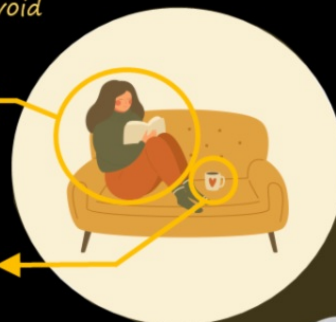
Close blinds or curtains to keep in some heat.

Close off rooms to avoid wasting heat.

Wear layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing.

Eat and drink. Food provides energy to warm the body. Avoid caffeine and alcohol.

Stuff towels or rags in cracks under doors.



IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS ODOR OR SUSPECT A GAS LEAK

Please leave the area and from a safe distance call 9-1-1. Then call your gas service provider:

Atmos Energy: 866-322-8667

Texas Gas Service: 800-959-5325



Please conserve natural gas

Gas service providers are asking everyone to please follow these tips to help conserve natural gas energy during this time. Here are some helpful tips from Atmos Energy:

- Lower your thermostat to at least 68 degrees.
- Businesses should minimize energy usage as much as possible.
- Lower the water heater temperature to 120 degrees.
- Never use an oven or a gas stovetop to heat your home.
- Unplug electronic devices and turn off lights that are not in use.
- Reduce shower time and avoid baths.
- Refrain from using large appliances like your washer, dryer, oven, and dishwasher for the next few days. When in use, limit opening the oven door to prevent wasted energy.
- Keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning.
- Avoid using your natural gas fireplace, if possible.
- If you have a pool, do not use the pool heater. Instead, run your pool pump during the coldest part of the day to circulate the water and prevent freezing.

For additional information, click [here](#).

Preventing Carbon Monoxide exposure

The CDC has important information on how to prevent carbon monoxide exposure.

- Do seek prompt medical help if you suspect CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed or nauseous.
- Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other



gasoline or charcoal-burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window.

- **Don't** run a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if you leave the door open.
- **Don't** burn anything in a stove or fireplace that isn't vented.
- **Don't** heat your house with a gas oven.
- **Don't** use a generator, pressure washer, or any gasoline-powered engine less than 20 feet from any window, door, or vent. **Do** use an extension cord that is **more than 20 feet long** to keep the generator at a safe distance.

To get more tips and information on carbon monoxide, visit the CDC website [here](#).



We ♥ Cedar Park Neighbors! We have seen you sharing food, water, toilet paper, diapers, and electricity. You have helped nurses and other essential personnel navigate to work. You have continuously checked in on your neighbors in need. Thank you for showing the true spirit of Cedar Parkians!